

July 16, 1999

Jane E. Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20852

6309 '99 JUL 22 A9:45

Dear Dr. Henney

Re: Docket: #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

We feel as though we are being used as guinea pigs, along with 250,000,000 other people if consumers have no way to recognize and refuse to buy irradiated foods.

We are extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated foods. Any food, or any foods, containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be clearly labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated foods. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale

Like other labels required by federal law, irradiation labels must be truthful and not misleading. Proposals to use euphemistic phrases like "cold pasteurization" are inappropriate. The term "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained because they accurately portray the irradiation process. The radura symbol, without written disclosure, is not accurate.

Consumers have a right to know how their food has been processed. Please ensure that labeling requirements are strengthened, not weakened.

Sincerely



**Mary and Raymond Sell
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We are members of Gray Panthers, Alliance for Democracy, WILPF, Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center.

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